

Judge: [illegible]
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CV 6440

PAUL SIMON D/B/A PAUL SIMON MUSIC,

Plaintiff

v.

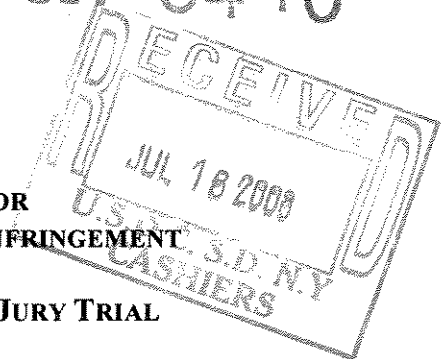
RHYTHM USA, INC., AND RHYTHM WATCH
Co., LTD.

Defendants.

CASE No.

COMPLAINT FOR
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL



Plaintiff, Paul Simon ("Simon") d/b/a Paul Simon Music, by his attorneys, HANLY CONROY BIERSTEIN, SHERIDAN FISHER & HAYES LLP, brings this action against the Defendant, RHYTHM USA, INC., and RHYTHM WATCH CO., LTD., and complains and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE CLAIM

1. This is a claim for copyright infringement based upon Defendants' use, without a license, of the famous composition, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (the "Composition") written by Paul Simon, in connection with Defendants' manufacture, distribution and sale of clocks throughout the United States. Such actions violate Plaintiff's rights and entitles Plaintiff to the damages sought herein and for an order to compel Defendants to cease and desist in such use. Defendants' who have been in the clock business for decades, knew or should have known that they were violating Plaintiff's rights and have realized millions of dollars from their infringing actions. Defendants profit from their infringing activities directly and vicariously because they obtain profits from the sales of the clocks and sell to retailers and on-line vendors who also profit therefrom. This action is brought to obtain redress for blatant infringement of Plaintiff's rights by Defendants.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff, Paul Simon d/b/a Paul Simon Music is a world famous singer and songwriter and maintains a place of business in Connecticut.

3. Defendant, Rhythm USA, Inc., (“Rhythm USA”) is, upon information and belief, a company organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the state of Georgia and having a principal place of business at 8601 Dunwoody Place, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30350. Rhythm USA is, upon information and belief a sales subsidiary of Rhythm Japan and serves as the distributor for Rhythm Japan products throughout the United States. Upon information and belief, Rhythm USA is engaged in the business of manufacture, distribution and sale of clocks, which *inter alia*, incorporate various musical compositions that are played on the clocks.

4. Defendant, Rhythm Watch Co., LTD., (“Rhythm Japan”) is, upon information and belief, a company organized and existing pursuant to the laws of Japan which conducts business throughout the United States of America, including this District, and is the corporate parent of Rhythm USA. Upon information and belief, Rhythm Japan, which was established in 1950, manufactures, distributes and sells clocks, in Japan, the United States, India and Hong Kong among other places, which *inter alia*, include musical compositions played on the clocks. According to its website, Rhythm Japan has sold in excess of 20,000,000 clocks and movements throughout the world. Rhythm Japan further states on its website that it “has developed features and designs that meets the needs of today’s lifestyle with motion and sound that attracts the consumer”.

5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that all times mentioned herein, each of the Defendants was the agent of the other and, in doing the acts complained of herein, was acting with the scope of and pursuant to such agency.

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JURISDICTION

6. This court has jurisdiction of this action by virtue of the copyright laws 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et. seq.*, in that this is a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief under the Copyright Act.

7. Jurisdiction of the subject matter is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants in that, among other things, Defendants are doing business in the State of New York and in this judicial district, and Plaintiff is suffering harm in this District, among others.

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(a), in that Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction, and may be found, in this District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. Upon information and belief, in or about 2003 Defendants began to manufacture, distribute and sell throughout the United States of America clocks which utilized the Composition which was composed by Simon and which is owned by Plaintiff herein. The clocks marketed and sold by Defendants also contained compositions other than that owned by Plaintiff.

11. Plaintiff owns and administers the copyright in the Composition and has invested money, time, effort and creative talent to protect and properly exploit the copyright in the Composition as it does for other copyrights of songs written by Paul Simon.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendants intentionally knowingly and/or recklessly utilized Plaintiff's composition without a license and in derogation of its rights. Further upon information and belief, Defendants have sold in the United States in the three-year period prior to the date hereof, in excess of 40,000 clocks utilizing the Composition and grossing a wholesale sales price in excess of \$5,000,000.00 from the sale of such clocks, thereby utilizing and benefiting from Plaintiff's Composition. An example of the clocks utilizing Plaintiff's Composition is the "Grand Nostalgia Clock" sold by Defendants which plays Plaintiff's Composition along with other compositions such as a "A Whiter Shade of Pale," "My Way," "Tennessee Waltz," and other compositions. Plaintiff does not know if licenses were obtained for the other compositions used on clocks and not in the public domain. Defendants also vicariously infringe Plaintiff's rights by enabling the resale of the clocks to consumers by retailers and on-line merchandisers.

13. Upon information and belief, by reason of the foregoing described acts Defendants made substantial profits to which they are not entitled, as a result of the utilization of Plaintiff's composition without a license. In addition, the Composition is one of the best known songs throughout the world in popular music. It is among the most played compositions on the radio. A license fee for the use of the Composition, if one were requested and granted, would have been in excess of \$1,000,000.

COUNT I
(Direct Copyright Infringement)

14. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference each and every averment contained in paragraphs 1 through 13, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

15. Defendants have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights in the Composition by reproducing, adapting, distributing, and/or publicly performing the Composition without authorization, in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

16. Each such infringement by Defendants of the Composition constitutes a separate and distinct act of infringement.

17. Defendants' acts of infringement were willful, in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiff.

18. As a direct and proximate result of the infringements by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, including the value of a license fee and the Defendants' profits in amounts to be proven at trial which are not currently ascertainable. Alternatively, Plaintiff is entitled to maximum statutory damages of \$150,000 for each copyright infringed, or in such other amount as may be proper under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

19. Plaintiff is further entitled to its attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

20. As a result of Defendants' act and conduct, Plaintiff has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis avers, that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to infringe its rights in the Composition. Plaintiff is entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants' continuing infringing conduct.

21. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff's have been damaged in an amount to be determined at a trial of this action, which upon information and belief, exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00.

COUNT II
(Vicarious and/or Contributory Copyright Infringement)

22. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference each and every averment contained in paragraphs 1 through 21, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

23. Defendants sell to retailers and on-line vendors of clocks. Such sales by retailers and on-line merchandisers constitute infringements of Plaintiff's copyright in the Composition, including its exclusive rights of reproduction, distribution, and public performance, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendants have the right and ability to supervise and control the infringing conduct of their retailers and on-line vendors. Defendants have refused to exercise such supervision and control to the extent required by law. As a direct and proximate result of such refusal, Defendants have infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Composition, including by retailer, distribution and sale of clocks containing the Composition by retailers and others.

25. Defendants derive a direct financial benefit from this infringement, including but not limited to, increased sales and increase in value of Defendants' businesses arising from the "draw" of the use of the Compositions.

26. Each such infringement by Defendants' retailers and on-line vendors of the Composition for which Defendants are vicariously and/or contributorily liable constitutes a separate and distinct act of infringement.

27. Defendants' acts of infringement were willful, in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiff.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the infringements by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and to Defendants' profits in amounts to be proven at trial which are not currently ascertainable. Alternatively, Plaintiff is entitled to maximum statutory damages of \$150,000 for each copyright infringed, or in such other amount as may be proper under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

29. Plaintiff is further entitled to attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

30. As a result of Defendants' acts and conduct, Plaintiff sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis aver, that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to infringe their rights in the Composition. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff is entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants continuing infringing conduct.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks judgment against Defendants:

(a.) On the first count for relief, damages in an amount to be determined at a trial of this action, which upon information and belief, exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00;


(b.) On the second count for relief, damages in an amount to be determined at a trial of this action, which upon information and belief, exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00; and

(c.) An order preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants from infringing Plaintiff's Composition.

(d.) The costs and disbursement of this actions including reasonable attorneys' fees together with such other and further relief that this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
July 18, 2008

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